

80 GIRLS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

FINAL
EDITION

The

Evening

World.

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MINE DAMAGES LINER NEW YORK GERMANS LOSE 9,000 MEN AND 40 GUNS

ALL PASSENGERS TAKEN OFF LINER NEW YORK AFTER SHIP HITS MINE NEAR LIVERPOOL

Armed Vessel Is Damaged Five
Miles Outside of
British Port.

LEFT HERE ON MARCH 29.

Seven United States Citizens
Among Passengers and
Many in the Crew.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The American liner New York struck a mine at 7:40 o'clock last night five miles off Liverpool Bar. No casualties were reported. The vessel later proceeded to Liverpool.

Consul Washington to-day and later conferred with leading members of Congress.

In going to the White House, the President discarded all political differences of the past and aligned himself unreservedly with the President, begging only for opportunity to be in the front rank fighting Germany. The two men meeting in the entrance hall of the White House clasped hands in cordial greetings and going to the Green Room engaged for half an hour in earnest conversation.

Col. Roosevelt said on leaving the White House:

"I came here desiring to see the President personally to reiterate what I had said about his message to Congress, and to lay before him in detail just what I desired to have his direction to do in the case of the army division for France. It was my earnest hope and belief that it would be well that I should have the authorization to raise such a division to be sent as part of an expeditionary force to France at an early moment."

"The President received me with the utmost courtesy and consideration and doubtless in his own due time will come to a decision. I have already been in communication with Secretary of War Baker on the subject."

"I am heart and soul for the proposal of the Administration for universal military training and for universal obligatory military service. Call it conscription or what you will and it won't scare me. I would favor it if the demand were for 3,000,000 men."

"The division I have asked permission to raise would be raised by voluntary enlistment, but in no way to interfere with the universal service plan. The division would be recruited outside those liable for conscription."

Roosevelt's plans contemplate the sending to France of an army corps, of which his division would be part. A regular army officer, preferably Gen. Wood, would command the corps with Roosevelt serving as subordinate commander of a division specially enlisted by him, a second Rough Rider organization on an enlarged scale, but composed principally of infantry. Thousands of men already are informally enrolled in the Roosevelt army, only waiting the word to mobilize.

The dominant idea inspiring Col. Roosevelt is that the American flag must wave on the battlefields of France, carried by American soldiers.

T. R. TELLS WILSON HIS PLAN TO RAISE ARMY FOR FRANCE

President and ex-President For-
get Political Differences and
Confer at White House.

(Special to The Evening World.)
WASHINGTON, April 10.—Eager to lead an American army to France and exerting all his influence in favor of universal military service, Col. Roosevelt called upon President Wilson at the White House to-day and later conferred with leading members of Congress.

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FEAR OF SERVICE IN WAR IS SEEN IN RUSH TO WED

City Clerk Scully's Diagnosis
of the Many Cases Presented
at the Marriage Bureau.

The run to the Marriage License Bureau, which began last Saturday and seems to be growing by the hour, was responsible for an outburst of indignation to-day from City Clerk P. J. Scully, who declared that he believed a very large majority of the male applicants are rushing into matrimony with the deliberate intention of escaping military service.

"I have reluctantly come to the conclusion," said the City Clerk, "that this unprecedented increase in the number of applications for marriage licenses is due in a very great degree to the recent announcement that all single men between the age of nineteen and twenty-five years may be selected by drafting. Any man who thus seeks to hide behind a woman's skirts is a moral and a physical coward. He is certainly not worthy of the freedom and the advantages that his parents sought when they came to these shores."

"When the record was broken on Easter Saturday I was of the opinion that the season had something to do with it. Monday's record, however, proved that such was not the case. The increase was out of all proportion. There was nothing to indicate that it was normal. On the other hand, the ages of the male applicants for marriage licenses clearly show that a very large majority of them are between the ages of nineteen and twenty-five."

"All my clerks who have heard of word dropped here and there, and who even had admissions from the brides-to-be, agree with me that gross, and to lay before him in detail just what I desired to have his direction to do in the case of the army division for France. It was my earnest hope and belief that it would be well that I should have the authorization to raise such a division to be sent as part of an expeditionary force to France at an early moment."

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200 ARE REPORTED KILLED IN MUNITIONS EXPLOSION; SEVERAL HUNDRED INJURED

Tragedy Is Believed to Be the
Result of a Plot—Plant Was
Busy Manufacturing Shrapnel
Shells for Russia.

CHESTER, Pa., April 10.—A terrific explosion at the great plant of the Eddystone Munitions Corporation at Eddystone, Pa., a mile from this city and ten miles from Philadelphia, is reported to have killed from 125 to 250 persons and injured at least 300 more to-day. A railroad official asserts that nearly 300 were killed, but this estimate could not be confirmed late this afternoon and the police were of the opinion that there were about 200 dead.

At the undertaking place of Coroner White there are eighty bodies of girls.

Thousands of girls were employed at the plant. The explosion occurred soon after 10 o'clock in the pellet room of the shrapnel building, where about 100 girls were employed putting the finishing touches on shells. In a building adjoining approximately 30,000 shells were stored. A second explosion demolished this building and scattered the shells in every direction.

Immediately calls were sent for outside aid and physicians, firemen and policemen from surrounding towns arrived in great numbers. The buildings in which the explosions occurred caught fire, and at strenuous work the flames, which burned two hours, were confined to these structures.

The two main hospitals of the city were soon filled, and others injured were taken to the Fifth Regiment Armory and a frame tabernacle recently erected here for religious services.

No official of the company was found who could tell anything about the explosion. There were whispers of a plot to destroy the plant. There were about 10,000 persons employed in the plant.

The place has been thoroughly guarded night and day, and after dark immense searchlights make every portion of the ground as light as day.

In addition Secret Service men and detectives worked in the various departments disguised as munitions makers.

The Eddystone plant, though owned by the Baldwin Locomotive Works, was not operated by that company. The operation was taken over by the Anglo-Russian Commission when the Eddystone Munitions Company failed to live up to its contracts last September. An arrangement was reached at that time by which the Baldwin Company should release its claim for a royalty on each shell made in the plant and in lieu of that accept a percentage on the cost of operation and production of as many shells as the Anglo-Russian Commission could turn out.

At 3 o'clock this afternoon 350 U. S. soldiers had been issued for the day. The clerk said there would be at least 400 by 5 o'clock, when the bureau was to close. Yesterday there were 382 licenses given out and there were 382 on Saturday. The record in 1916 was 315 on June 1, 1916, the day the bureau was opened.

The Canadian liner Carmania arrived here to-day from a European port, bringing thirty-eight passengers and 1,400 sacks of mail. Her officers reported that no mines or submarines were encountered.

1,000,000 Pairs of Army Shoes Contracted For by U. S.
CHICAGO, April 10.—The Government has already contracted for 1,000,000 pairs of army shoes at prices ranging from \$4.45 to \$5.15. It was stated at one of the leading tanneries here to-day. Of these 625,000 pairs were ordered in St. Louis last week.

NAVY TAKES STEPS TO AID ALLIES RID SEA OF U BOATS

Naval Patrol Will Relieve Al-
lied Warships Now Guard-
ing Atlantic Coast.

By Samuel M. Williams.
(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The Government is rushing its material and economic reserves to the front to carry out the new tactics that modern warfare has developed, along lines of co-operation that will help the Allies best.

Although the nation is weak in trained soldiers, it is mighty in money, industry and in supplies, without which the largest army in the world could not exist. It is these very things that the European Allies need most, and it is these things that America can furnish freely and quickly.

In common cause with England, France and Russia against Prussian militarism, the United States Government plans to strengthen the battle lines in France, and the harassed, needy hordes of the new Russian democracy. The developments of the day are these:

A commission of English officials is on the way to Washington and an American Commission is nearing London to arrange details of practical naval, military and industrial co-operation.

NAVY WILL GUARD THIS SIDE
OF THE ATLANTIC.

The United States Navy will take up patrol of the Atlantic seaboard from Nova Scotia to the Panama Canal and around the West Indies. This will relieve the large number of British and French ships now on this side of the Atlantic so they may return to home waters.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo announced details of the forthcoming five billion dollar bond issue, of which three billions are to be loaned to the Allies for the purchase of supplies in this country.

American experts, principally in railroad transportation and industrial organization, will go to Russia's assistance and endeavor to bring order out of the chaos created by the Czar's treacherous Government.

Great quantities of munitions, steel, copper and raw materials will be hurried to Europe. The Allies are understood to need supplies more than men, and reinforcements behind the lines more than in the trenches.

WAR PLANS DEBATED IN HOUSE
AND SENATE.

Congress debated war plans to-day over a wide range, but in the broadest generalities.

In the House most of the debate was devoted to emphasizing the necessity of realizing the importance of an adequate food supply, and in the Senate the debate turned principally on the question of universal service. Selective conscription was opposed by several Senators.

"I have very grave apprehensions respecting this idea of conscription as to whether it will appeal to the people of the United States," said Senator Gallinger, the Republican leader. "I do not know, however, if we can raise a volunteer army unless we accumulate Canada in paying our soldiers. There ought to be a more liberal policy to encourage enlistment."

BERLIN ADMITS BIG LOSS AS BRITISH DRIVE AHEAD AT EVERY POINT ON FRONT

Success of Canadians in Capturing
Vimy Ridge May Force Enemy to
Give Up Hold Upon Manufactur-
ing Districts of Northern France

VILLAGE OF FAMPOUX TAKEN BY ASSAULT TO-DAY

LONDON, April 10.—The British offensive between Lens and St. Quentin, with which the spring operations have been opened and which is still in progress, has proved even more successful than the earlier accounts indicated. The actual battle line is now about thirty-five miles long.

Gen. Sir Douglas Haig to-day reports that yesterday's capture exceeded 9,000 men, while forty guns fell into the hands of his troops. One correspondent says German prisoners may number 15,000.

[In its report to-day the Berlin War Office admits heavy losses, but says the British did not break through the line.]

The Canadians, who had one of the hardest bits of the front to contend with, are now in complete occupation of the Vimy Ridge, even the eastern slopes of the ridge having been cleared of Germans. The Canadians also have repulsed German counter attacks.

These reactions by the Germans indicate the importance they attach to this position, whence the conquerors look down over the plain of Douai. With Vimy Ridge gone the whole German line covering the French towns and industrial districts to the north becomes a wavering one, and any leisurely retreat the Germans may have planned is made uncertain and precarious.

TWO MORE BATTALIONS OF 23D OFF FOR WAR DUTY

Mothers and Sweethearts Hysterical
as Guardsmen Leave Their
Armory.

The First and Second Battalions of the Twenty-third New York Infantry marched from the armory at Bedford and Atlantic Avenue at a little after 1 o'clock to-day for field duty. Their departure followed a great gathering of mothers, wives and sweethearts at the armory which inclined to be hysterical as the final orders were given, but got control of itself as the regimental band paraded into the street, followed by the olive drab column, and started down Pacific Street.

The line of march was to Carlton Avenue to Atlantic Avenue to Flatbush Avenue. All the factories along Atlantic Avenue suspended work and men and women leaned out of windows and crowded fire escapes to cheer. The battalions took the subway at Atlantic Avenue to go to Manhattan to entrain.

For the present the headquarters and machine gun companies are to remain at the armory with Col. Frank H. Norton. The machine gun company will later join the Second Battalion. The headquarters company, which is made up of the regimental staff, mounted orderlies and the band, will remain at the armory indefinitely. Col. Norton making frequent visits to the scattered units of his command.

With the capture of the Vimy Ridge the British made a considerable stride along the road to Douai, while the capture of the high ground northwest of St. Quentin tightens the chain which the Anglo-French forces are drawing around that town.

A German diversion southeast of Ypres, according to Gen. Haig's report, met with no success.

Field Marshal Haig's offensive to-day extended northward. A despatch received from his headquarters mentioned fighting near La Bassée. At least twelve miles north of the latest statement concerning offensive fighting.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE
BRITISH WAR OFFICE.

The British have seized the village of Fampoux and the neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe River. Near St. Quentin the Germans have been driven from the high ground between Le Verguer and Hargicourt. Following is the official statement of the War Office:

"During the night there was severe fighting at the northern end of Vimy Ridge, where the enemy had retained a footing. He was ejected, and an attempted counter-attack failed to materialize. The eastern slopes of the ridge have been cleared of the enemy and counter-attacks repulsed."

"Our troops advanced and seized the village of Fampoux and neighboring defenses north and south of the Scarpe."

"The number of prisoners taken yesterday exceeds 9,000, and over forty guns have been captured."

"In the neighborhood of St. Quentin the enemy has been driven from the high ground between Le Verguer and Hargicourt. Fight-